



THE CONNECTICUT ELECTRIC RAILWAY
ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED
58 NORTH ROAD P.O. BOX 360
EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06088-0360
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March 7, 2013

Re: Testimony regarding S.B. No. 1005
Commerce Committee Meeting, March 7 2013 at 10:15am
By Frederick J. Stroiney, 14 Armstrong Road Enfield, CT 06028
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Connecticut Electric Railway Association, Inc.
d/b/a Connecticut Trolley Museum

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee,

I am Fred Stroiney, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the CT Electric Railway Association doing business as the CT Trolley Museum located in East Windsor, CT

I am testifying in support of S.B. No. 1005 An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the CT Trolley Museum.

Personally and as Chairman, I would like to thank Senator LeBeau and the many other members of the CT Legislature for their many year of support including supporting the CT Fire Museum also located on our campus at 58 North Road in East Windsor.

We are a Volunteer, Not For Profit Organization. In 2012 we recorded 189 active volunteers spending over 13,000 hours making the Museum a CT destination to be proud of. There are other volunteers that don't record their activities and there are many more hours of unrecorded time. We average we have over 18,000 visitors per year.

We are a member managed organization with over 500 members, a Board of Directors of 12 elected for a 3 year staggered term. We have one (1) full time paid Visitor Experience Coordinator/Office Manager and five (5) paid part time seasonal workers.

We are financially sound. Our filed IRS 990 yearly reports are available for viewing on our web site www.ct-trolley.org and other sites. We have donated funds restricted for specific purposes totaling over \$125,000 as of the end of February 2013.

The purpose of requesting the approval of S.B. No. 1005 is to allow us to carry out our goals of Education, Restoration and Preservation of Trolley and other Electric Traction related equipment of the past. Our goal is to have this be a "living museum" which includes rides and interactive displays.

Tactically we are fine. Strategically we need your help. I have attached on the reverse side of this written testimony specific information regarding our request. Only with your help and with Grants from others can we make the CT Trolley Museum a long term destination for young and old to understand the history of what is again becoming a viable mode of transportation.

I can review the specifics of the proposal if you wish and will be pleased to entertain any questions you may have.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of the Museum.



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(Re: S.B. No. 1005)

1. Expand North Road Campus visitor center experience and make museum a destination during inclement weather. Approximate cost \$650,000
 - a. Construct tracks into visitor center for visitor loading under train shed.
 - b. Expanded exhibits within visitor center with more hands on and interactive displays.
 - c. Enclose bay of train shed for on-going trolley car restoration work with visitor gallery, viewing area etc.
 - d. Improvements to walkways, parking lot, drainage for inclement weather days.
2. Extend track to Piney Ridge (first phase) and across Scantic River into Broad Brook (2nd phase). These extensions will allow for riders to disembark cars to have picnics and take nature walks. : Approximate Cost \$600,000 (1st phase) & \$800,000 (2nd phase)
 - a. First Phase: Extend track to Piney Ridge park site (former trolley car amusement park on museum's line, Purchase portion of Piney Ridge property, Set up picnic areas, walking trails, and construct loop for trolley cars on property.
 - b. Second Phase: Extend track across Scantic River into Broad Brook. Connect to Scantic River linear park adjacent to museum's right of way.
3. Construct "Main Street" concept at North Road Campus. The concept here is to construct a typical old time main street that would have been in a typical New England town in the early 1900's. Trolley cars typically ran down the main street of the towns. The construction would include additional storage barns for trolley car preservation, retrofitting of the fire museum building with a new facade representing an old time fire station, and providing buildings with facades with room for housing different types of 1900's era establishments (soda fountain, old time stores, areas for other museums with materials from the trolley car era to place exhibits, etc.): Approximate cost : \$1,500,000

Submitted by
Frederick J. Stroiney, Chairman & Galen Semprebon, President
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